

ENERGY TIDBITS – December 2007

Governor Granholm's Executive Order 2007-42 has created a Michigan Climate Action Council to develop a comprehensive climate action plan for the state. The Council will be comprised of 35 representatives from public interest groups, environmental organizations, utilities, businesses, universities, and state and local government. The Council will compile an inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas emissions in Michigan and produce a plan for reducing those gasses. An interim report with policy recommendations will be submitted to the Governor by March 31. A final report with a detailed analysis of specific recommendations is due by Dec. 31, 2008. www.michigan.gov

Executive Directive 2007-22 issued by Governor Granholm will require a 10% reduction in state government energy use by the end of 2008. The state will increase use of alternative fuels in its fleet of vehicles; develop a materials management plan to ensure environmentally sound purchasing, use, reuse and recycling of material; and ensure that new state owned or leased buildings meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The state will also reduce its electrical energy purchases by 20% by 2015. www.michigan.gov

[Midwest Energy Solutions: Leading the Way](#) conference is dedicated to energy issues in the Midwest. This year's conference will highlight the growing momentum for energy efficiency in the region including sessions on energy policy initiatives, solutions to marketplace barriers, sector-specific initiatives, and the economic case for energy efficiency. Join the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance in Chicago on January 9-11. www.mwalliance.org/conference.

Midwestern Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord has been signed by Governor Granholm and 8 other governors and the Premier of Manitoba at the Midwestern Governors Association Energy Summit in Milwaukee. The accord will establish GHG reduction targets and time frames; develop a market-based cap-and-trade mechanism to help achieve those reduction targets; and implement steps to achieve the reduction targets. As part of the summit, Midwestern states also adopted timelines for the advancement of energy efficiency, bio-based products, renewable electricity and carbon capture and storage. www.midwesterngovernors.org/energysummit.htm

Lansing Quality Suites Hotel has earned Green Lodging Michigan Steward certification. The hotel has implemented several environmental initiatives at the facility such as offering a towel and linen reuse program to guests, using low VOC cleaning products and paints, and specifying that future equipment purchases be Energy Star qualified. In addition, the hotel recently underwent an energy audit and management is evaluating future energy conservation projects. "We felt that it was very important to do our part and push for better environmental practices. Occupancy sensors, Energy Star equipment, and a

comprehensive recycling program are among our 'green' policies," said Mike Rice, general manager of the Quality Suites Hotel.

MI Energy Future, a new coalition, has announced a public campaign urging the state Legislature to pass laws requiring that 10% of Michigan's electricity be generated from renewable resources by 2015. Backers of the "10 by '15" campaign have emphasized the job creation potential. The campaign is being backed by NextEnergy, Michigan Sustainable Energy Coalition and others. www.michigancleanenergy.com.

What Every Homeowner Should Know About Green Building is available for download from WARM Training at www.warmtraining.org.

Vortex Hydro Energy, Ann Arbor, wants to use the flow of the Detroit River to generate electricity. Vortex would anchor rows of cylinders to the bottom of the Detroit River and let the current push the cylinders up and down to generate electricity. The company is working with the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority on a pilot project near Hart Plaza. The Port Authority is developing a public dock and, if feasibility studies support it, the Vortex project would power lights on the dock. The technology, invented and patented by UM professor Michael Bernitsas, uses brackets that allow the cylinders to move up and down as the current passes over them. Unlike a turbine, the device won't affect the flow of a stream or the migration of fish.

DTE Energy has received a Most Innovative Integration award that recognizes the innovative use of electronic communications in DTE's GreenCurrents program. The award included a \$1000 donation to a nonprofit and DTE has designated Michigan Interfaith Power & Light as the recipient, in recognition of their efforts to support green energy initiatives.

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's 6th Annual Renewable Energy Conference will be held on Saturday, March 15. The keynote speaker will be Todd Parker from the Delta Institute who will be speaking on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Breakout sessions include An Economic Analysis of Renewable Energy Systems; Solar Hot Water; Building an Energy Efficient Home; and a State of the State Address. Check www.cedarcreekinstitute.org after January 21, 2008

Calvin College Wind Turbine Demonstration Project has a great web page at http://knightvision.calvin.edu/bbcswebdav/orgs/Renewable_Energy_org/

Next Generation PV Technology will receive \$21.7 million from DOE. The 25 projects that DOE has selected include a Mayaterials (Ann Arbor) \$1 million (\$837k from DOE) project that will seek to derive solar grade silicon from agricultural by-products and a UM \$900,000 (\$790k from DOE) project that will seek to demonstrate effective tandem crystalline organic photovoltaic cells.

California Public Utilities Commission will be requiring California's investor-owned utilities to prepare a single, statewide Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan for the years 2009-2020. The decision, setting in motion the planning process, adopts aggressive targets for new residential and commercial buildings in California. It states that all new residential buildings and all new commercial buildings in the state shall be zero net energy by 2020 and 2030 respectively.

www.californiaenergyefficiency.com

4th Annual Seminars on Sustainability: SOS for the Environment conference will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008. The SOS conference is presented in conjunction with the Center for Sustainability at Lawrence Technological University and will be held on LTU's campus. The conference offers a full afternoon of concurrent seminars on varied topics such as Green Technology, Building Design and Operating Strategies, Investment Decision-making Tools, Designing for LEED and ASHRAE Standard 90.1 Appendix G. Visit www.detroitashrae.org for more details.

Ann Arbor based Appropriate Technology Design Collaborative has entered a NASA sponsored design competition with an energy efficient LED light fixture designed for the billion people on the planet who live where power is intermittent, like "squatter cities". The design uses a recycled cell phone charger to charge batteries when power is available and provide light when needed. The fixture can provide light for several days between charges. It also shuts off when the batteries are charged and has almost no stand-by power loss. One of the ways the contest is judged is by the number of page views each entry generates. Check it out at: <http://tinyurl.com/yphjlu>

Ford Field became the first NFL stadium to hold a 100% carbon neutral game on November 22 when it offset CO2 emissions for the Lions 68th Thanksgiving Day game. The calculation to determine offsets needed included all of the CO2 emissions for the energy usage from electricity, gas and water used at Ford Field, along with the emissions emitted from the travel of the fans (automotive, air) and the opposing team. The event will offset 1,866,000 pounds of CO2 emissions. The organization is working with [Carbon Credit Environmental Services](#) of Detroit, which has planted 150,000 trees as a carbon sink.

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